



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Viral Hepatitis Program

303-692-2780

www.hepatitiscolorado.info

This guidance is intended for use by health care and public health providers who are implementing hepatitis C testing as a result of a possible exposure to hepatitis C in a health care setting.

Interpretation of Test Results for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection and Further Actions

Test Outcome	Interpretation	Further Actions
HCV antibody nonreactive	No HCV antibody detected	Sample can be reported as nonreactive for HCV antibody. No further action required. If a person was exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, test for HCV RNA.
HCV antibody reactive	Presumptive HCV Infection	A repeatedly reactive result is consistent with current HCV infection, or past HCV infection that has resolved, or biologic false positivity for HCV antibody. Test for HCV RNA to identify current infection. Report to public health by calling 303-692-2780 or 1-800-866-2759
HCV antibody reactive, HCV RNA detected	Current HCV infection	Provide person tested with appropriate counseling; follow up with an HCV genotype test and evaluation of liver enzymes; Link patient to care. Report to public health by calling 303-692-2780 or 1-800-866-2759
HCV antibody reactive, HCV RNA not detected	No Current HCV infection	No further action required in most cases. If a person was exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, re-test for HCV RNA. If distinction between true positivity and biologic false positivity for HCV antibody is desired, and if sample is repeatedly reactive in the initial test, test with another HCV antibody assay.

Adapted from CDC, Testing for HCV Infection: An update of guidance for clinicians and laboratorians. MMWR 2013;62(18).